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Summary record of the 6th meeting
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Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar), President of the General Assembly, said that the Organization must remain responsive in order to cope with the world's many challenges. In recognition of that fact, he had made reform and revitalization of the United Nations a focus of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. That effort could not succeed without the provision of financial and human resources; the exercise of authority, oversight and accountability; and the demonstration of political will to support and implement the action taken. It fell to the Fifth Committee to address those issues.

2. The Committee's working methods and decision-making processes must be efficient and effective. It was therefore appropriate for it to reflect on, and identify, potential improvements. The Committee's credibility as a responsible entity would be enhanced if it adhered to the date announced for the completion of its work.

3. However, the timely disposal of the items on the Committee's agenda depended on the positions and priorities of its members. Just as the Secretariat should make well-considered proposals, the Member States should conduct their negotiations in a focused way, avoiding inaction and delay, which did not reflect well on the Committee. Such an approach would save resources spent on conference services and publications. He was committed to promoting cooperative multilateralism, which lay at the centre of the Charter of the United Nations.

Agenda item 135: Programme planning (A/66/16)

4. **Mr. Lasarte** (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination), introducing the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its fifty-first session (A/66/16), recalled that body's central role in planning, programming, monitoring, evaluation and coordination of the Organization's activities. As the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/244, had already adopted the strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, CPC had confined itself at that session to examining the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the changes to the biennial programme plan resulting from new or revised mandates for the current and forthcoming bienniums.

5. At its most recent session, CPC had faced some limitations on its ability to operate effectively, including the continued vacancies for representatives of the Group of Western European and other States and the Group of Asian States, and the absence, for the second successive year, of relevant related reports from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). That conflicted with the wish of the General Assembly that CPC and JIU should cooperate more closely. CPC hoped that the situation would improve, so that it could once again fulfil the requirements of paragraph 6 of its terms of reference, contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX).

6. In its recommendations on programme questions, CPC had advocated changes to expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for human settlements and for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and a change to the narrative relating to the activities of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

7. In its conclusions and recommendations on evaluation activities, CPC had emphasized potential improvements in decision-making through better transparency, policy directives, programme design and execution, implementation of intergovernmental mandates and use of resources. Proper evaluation depended on a strong commitment from staff at all levels of management, sufficient financial and human resources and the use of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound management indicators. CPC had recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to maximize the impact of evaluation on the medium- and long-term strategic planning of the United Nations system.

8. Looking specifically at evaluations undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), including its report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/66/71), CPC recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that that body's reports focused on the impact of programmes and the results achieved, and that there was regular follow-up of progress made. The

assessment approach adopted should be more systematic, identifying areas of complementarity and synergy and strengthening coordination among all relevant departments.

9. At its most recent session, CPC had focused on the OIOS programme evaluation report on the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/AC.51/2011/2) and the OIOS report on the triennial review of the implementation of prior CPC recommendations on field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs (E/AC.51/2011/3).

10. In its conclusions and recommendations on the first report, CPC had highlighted the important role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs within the development pillar of the United Nations system in terms of support for intergovernmental decision-making and in terms of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It had recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to act to sharpen the Department's strategic focus, improve identification of priorities and critical activities, clarify its specific capacity-building role and stimulate cooperation with United Nations field-based entities.

11. In its conclusions and recommendations on the second report, CPC had stressed the need for the missions concerned to strengthen their cooperation with other United Nations entities so as to improve the maintenance of international peace and security. While noting the progress in defining and applying guidelines on the role and responsibilities of field special political missions, and the improved coordination and cooperation between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support in connection with those missions, CPC had pointed out the failure to implement fully some of its prior recommendations. It had therefore recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure comprehensive strategic planning, in a context of results-based-budgeting, taking particular account of the need for more meaningful indicators of achievement and better linkage between the objectives, activities and achievements of missions.

12. At its following session, CPC would consider the programme evaluations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

13. The CPC conclusions and recommendations on coordination questions related primarily to areas of activity involving complex aims, many stakeholders and a need for full and synchronized implementation of intergovernmental mandates, and therefore posing particular challenges. Those activities included the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. In such instances, the coordination role of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) would be valuable.

14. Specifically, CPC had focused on its consideration of the annual overview report of CEB for 2010/11 (E/2011/104), and the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development — NEPAD (E/AC.51/2011/4).

15. In connection with the first report, CPC had emphasized the need for independent evaluation of the eight "delivering as one" pilot projects; the need to increase the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in the procurement processes of the United Nations; and the need to strengthen CEB cooperation with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

16. In connection with the second report, CPC had expressed the view that the United Nations system should renew its commitment to NEPAD through rationalization of a results-based system to monitor and evaluate the impact of support for its implementation. Acknowledging the continued support from the United Nations system for clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, CPC had recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General promote synergies between the United Nations entities participating in the cluster system in order to eliminate the duplication of work and the inefficient use of resources.

17. **Mr. Di Luca** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that programme planning fulfilled the vital function of translating intergovernmental mandates into implementable action. As the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination, CPC not only provided valuable guidance to the Secretariat by interpreting

legislative intentions, but also helped to avoid overlap and duplication by establishing evaluation procedures. Recalling that CPC had considered the OIOS report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/66/71), the Group expected **diligent implementation by Secretariat managers of the related conclusions and recommendations**.

18. While emphasizing that setting the Organization's priorities was the sole prerogative of the Member States, the Group endorsed the CPC conclusions and recommendations regarding UN-Women. It believed that that entity should assume a universal role, assist Member States at national level upon their request, and coordinate its efforts with those of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

19. The Secretary-General, as CEB Chairman, should enhance the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States. As CPC had indicated in its conclusions and recommendations, CEB should operate in accordance with its mandate of enhancing system-wide coordination, and in accordance with the intergovernmental mandates of its member organizations. There should be effective dialogue and cooperation on matters of mutual interest among CEB, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and JIU.

20. The Group welcomed United Nations system support for NEPAD, and its consideration by CPC, but found the delay in filling the vacant post of Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa difficult to understand. In that connection, it fully supported the recommendation made by CPC in paragraph 131 of its report. It also expected urgent action to address the absence of a report on the matter promised to the Committee during informal consultations at the main part of the 65th session.

21. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that his delegation endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of CPC, but was concerned that JIU had provided no reports for CPC to consider, thus going against the desire for better dialogue and coordination between the two bodies expressed by CPC and the General Assembly.

22. Logical frameworks applying to United Nations bodies should facilitate programme evaluation by the Member States and the allocation of appropriate programme resources. Accordingly, the Secretariat should formulate such frameworks in strict compliance with legislative mandates and the action necessary to fulfil those mandates. It was to ensure closer alignment with those principles that his delegation and others had proposed changes to the logical frameworks for the activities of UN-Women. He **hoped that approved amendments to the various logical frameworks would be published without undue delay**.

23. He recalled that, for some three years, the Group of 77 and China had been expressing concern over the consolidation of the mandates of the Special Adviser on Africa and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Recalling also that the Committee was still awaiting the report on the Office of the Special Adviser promised by the Secretariat during informal consultations at the previous session of the Assembly, and that CPC had referred to the matter in successive reports on its own sessions, notably in paragraph 131 of its most recent report, his delegation wished the Secretariat to find a definitive solution.

Agenda item 133: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/66/188)

24. **Mr. Krishnan** (United Nations Office for Partnerships), introducing the report of the Secretary-General relating to the activities United Nations Office for Partnerships in 2010, said that its three chapters covered the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach.

25. Established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system, UNFIP had channelled a cumulative total of approximately $1.2 billion in additional resources to the Organization in the four main areas of the Foundation's work: women and children's health; women and population; sustainable energy and climate change; and peace, security and human rights. Annex I to the report illustrated the distribution of 507 projects, involving 43 United Nations bodies, implemented in 124 countries.

26. In 2010, UNDEF had followed its annual programme of assessing project applications,

conducting quality control and consulting with stakeholders before submitting its recommended proposals to the Secretary-General for approval. The fourth round of funding applications had resulted in a list of 65 approved projects. The fifth round, during which an unprecedented total of 3700 applications had been received, had resulted in a list of 64 approved projects.

27. Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach had continued to provide UNOP advice to companies in the private sector, foundations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and philanthropists in connection with poverty reduction, education, health, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

28. **The Chair** said that the report was a valuable means of providing transparent information to the Member States on the use of resources channelled to the Organization by UNOP. It should be remembered that those resources were sometimes contributed by donors with substantial wealth and influence, so oversight was necessary. He invited the Committee to adopt the following oral draft decision on the United Nations Office for Partnerships:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> *Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships,[1]
>
> *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships.[1]

29. *The draft decision was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

[1] A/66/188.